

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 22, such that the status of pending claims 1-24 is as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) A method for securing a user's hand to a container, ~~the container having an outer surface and an inner surface, wherein the inner surface defines a cavity therein,~~ the method comprising:

providing a container having an outer surface and an inner surface, the inner surface defining a cavity having an opening, wherein the cavity has an inner perimeter measured at about a middle portion of the cavity, the opening being generally at least as large as the inner perimeter;

providing a strap having at least one end secured to the outer surface of the container, the strap being mounted relative to the container to permit ~~resilient~~ elastic movement of at least a portion of the strap toward and away from the container; and
inserting the hand between the strap and the outer surface of the container to a degree sufficient to move that portion of the strap away from the container, whereby the strap resiliently urges the hand against the outer surface of the container.

2.(Currently Amended) A method of holding a fluid comprising:

providing a container having a bottom end and a sidewall extending from the bottom end to define a main body, the container having a rim located at an upper perimeter of an opening defined by the main body of the container;

providing a supportive strap having a first end and a second end with the first end secured to the container, the supportive strap being ~~flexible~~ at least partially elastic and extending along but outwardly spaced from the sidewall to form a pocket between the supportive strap and the sidewall;

inserting an appendage through the pocket wherein the supportive strap ~~resiliently~~
elastically urges the appendage against the sidewall; and
introducing fluid into the container.

- 3.(Original) The method of claim 2, and further comprising:
securing the second end of the supportive strap to the bottom end of the container.
- 4.(Original) The method of claim 3, and further comprising:
adjusting a length of the supportive strap wherein a size of the pocket is likewise adjusted.
- 5.(Original) The method of claim 2, and further comprising:
providing a fluid applicator tool;
inserting the fluid applicator tool into the fluid within the container; and
applying the fluid to a surface with the fluid applicator tool.
- 6.(Original) The method of claim 5, and further comprising:
providing a retainer for securing at least a portion of the fluid applicator tool within the
container.
- 7.(Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the retainer is a magnet.
- 8.(Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the appendage is selected from the group consisting of a
hand of a user, a wrist of a user, an arm of a user, and a belt of a user.
- 9.(Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the fluid is selected from the group consisting of paint, stain,
adhesive and varnish.

10.(Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the applicator tool is a brush.

11.(Currently Amended) A method for applying a coating material comprising:
providing a container having a bottom end and a sidewall to define a main body,
the container having an opening with a perimeter defined by the main body
of the container;
attaching a ~~flexible~~ strap to the sidewall and bottom end, wherein at least a portion of the
strap is elastic;
inserting a hand through the ~~flexible~~ strap to engage with the sidewall of the container and
the ~~flexible~~ strap;
introducing a coating material into the container;
providing an applicator tool;
inserting the applicator tool into the coating material; and
applying the coating material to a surface with the applicator tool.

12.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the inserting a hand step further comprises:
inserting a hand between the ~~flexible~~ strap and the sidewall, wherein the strap flexes to
urge the hand into engagement with the sidewall of the container and the ~~flexible~~
strap.

13.(Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the attaching step further comprises:
adjusting a length of the strap.

14.(Original) The method of claim 11, and further comprising:
providing a retainer for securing at least a portion of the applicator tool within the
container.

15.(Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the retainer is a magnet.

16.(Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the coating material is selected from the group consisting of paint, stain, adhesive, and varnish.

17.(Original) A method for applying a fluid from a container to a surface, the container having an outer surface and an inner surface, the method comprising:

providing an adjustable strap having a first end and a second end, the first end being
fixedly attached to the container;

securing the second end of the strap to the container;

aligning a user's hand between the strap and the outer surface of the container so that the
strap urges the hand against the outer surface of the container and stabilizes the container
with respect to movement relative to the hand;

pouring fluid into the container;

inserting a tool into the fluid in the container;

removing the tool from the fluid; and

applying the fluid with the tool to the surface.

18.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the securing step further comprises:

adjusting a length of the strap.

19.(Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the adjusting step further comprises:

adjusting the position of the second end of the strap relative to the container.

20.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the fluid is selected from the group consisting of paint, stain, varnish, and adhesive.

21.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the tool is a brush.

22.(Currently Amended) A method for holding a fluid comprising:

providing a container having a bottom end and a sidewall extending from the bottom end, the sidewall having an interior surface and an exterior surface, with a magnet affixed to the interior surface of the sidewall, the container having an at least partially inward-facing rim extending substantially around an upper perimeter of the sidewall of the container;

providing a supportive strap having a first end and a second end, the first end secured to the container, the supportive strap being ~~flexible~~ at least partially elastic and extending along but outwardly spaced from the sidewall to form a pocket between the supportive strap and the exterior surface of the sidewall;

inserting an appendage through the pocket wherein the supportive strap ~~resiliently~~ elastically urges the appendage against the exterior surface of the sidewall;

introducing fluid into the container; and

aligning a fluid applicator tool having a magnetic portion with the magnet so that the magnetic portion of the fluid applicator tool is releasably attached to the magnet to hold the fluid applicator tool within the container.

23.(Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the container providing step includes aligning the magnet on the interior surface of the sidewall adjacent to the supportive strap.

24.(Original) The method of claim 22, and further comprising:

detaching the fluid applicator tool from the magnet;

inserting the fluid applicator tool into the fluid within the container; and

applying the fluid to a surface with the fluid applicator tool.